

# Union Church of Biddeford Pool Presents SUMMER 2020 SPEAKER SERIES

Our 19th Year, *Literally*. Our 1st coming to you *Virtually!*

New starting time, 7PM



## Thursday July 9, Ann Hood — New York Times Best-selling Author and Editor's Choice Author

We are delighted to welcome back Ann Hood, author of the best-selling novels *Somewhere Off the Coast of Maine*, *The Obituary Writer*, *The Book That Matters Most*, and *The Knitting Circle* as well as the memoir *Comfort: A Journey Through Grief*, chosen as one of the top ten nonfiction books of 2008 by Entertainment Weekly. Ann's most recent book is *Kitchen Yarns: Notes in Life, Love and Food*. New York Times Book Review writes, "Hood is larger than life, living, loving, and grieving on an operatic scale."

## Thursday July 23, Michael Koryta — New York Times Bestselling Author of 15 Crime Fiction and Supernatural Thrillers.

This former private investigator and newspaper reporter's work has been praised by, e.g., Stephen King, James Patterson, Dennis Lehane. *If She Wakes* is his latest novel, set in Maine. *Those Who Wish Me Dead* was named the summer's best thriller by both Amazon and Entertainment Weekly (Angelina Jolie film due in 2020). Koryta's books have won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, Barry Award, Alex Award, and have been selected as "best books of the year" by publications as diverse as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, O the Oprah Magazine, Entertainment Weekly, and People.



## Thursday August 6, Abdi nor Iftin — Refugees International Advisor & Author

Somalian-born, and now proud US Citizen, Abdi's memoir *Call Me American* recounts his harrowing, extraordinary, and uplifting story of his life in Somalia and subsequent journey to become a legal resident of Maine, an author, and a TED Talk speaker. The New Yorker writes, "Riveting... [Iftin] had to endure famine, war, a precarious life as a refugee, and a visa-rejecting bureaucracy before a green-card lottery win, in 2014, enabled him to emigrate. His narrative is both panoramic and particular, full of irreverent asides, and suffused with appreciation for the humanity of others."



## Thursday, August 20, Colin Woodard — New York Times Best Selling Author, Historian and Journalist as well as a popular public speaker, most recently on

**Maine's Bicentennial.** Colin Woodard has reported from more than 50 countries and seven continents. A longtime foreign correspondent for The Christian Science Monitor and The San Francisco Chronicle, he is State and National Affairs Writer at the Portland Press Herald, where he received a 2012 George Polk Award and was a 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist. His work has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Economist, Smithsonian, Politico and dozens of other publications. He is the author of *American Nations*, *American Character*, *The Lobster Coast*, *The Republic of Pirates*, *Ocean's End* and the forthcoming *Union: The Struggle to Forge the Story of United States Nationhood*.



Via Zoom Call at 7PM. To register for the Series, contact Elaine Robinson, 283-1398, or [erobinson4@maine.rr.com](mailto:erobinson4@maine.rr.com). You will receive an email with Zoom call information. Donations *gratefully* accepted. 100% of proceeds benefit charities such as Seeds of Hope, Stone Soup Food Pantry, Ever After Mustang Rescue, and Saco Meals. Send check made out to "Union Church" with "Speaker Series" in subject line to UC Treasurer, PO Box 344, Biddeford Pool ME 04006.